Lat 40.28946 Lon -120.50316

Forest Pest Management

Pacific Southwest Region

July 12, 1999

File Code: 3420

To: Mr. Ken Smith
County Agricultural Commissioner
Lassen County

Subject: Field Identification of Conifer Insects on Private Property (NE99 - 5)

On July 6, 1999, I examined two trees on private property located at 463-225 Main Street, Janesville, CA. The property is the private residence of Mr. Phil Parry. The trees are located in the yard in front of the house. One is a Jeffrey pine and the other is a lodgepole pine. Both trees had pine needle scale, *Chionaspis pinifoliae* and pine adelgids, *Pineus* sp.

Pine needle scale

Identification and Lifecycle

Pine needle scales are easily recognized by their narrow white waxy covering with a yellow spot at one end. Heavy infestations can give a gray cast to the entire tree and the needles may be yellow and stunted. Small trees, saplings and poles, especially along dusty roads are often so heavily infested that the foliage appears white. Sometimes it

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kills the trees but more often weakens them and slows their growth. The scale over-winters as a red egg underneath the white covering of the female. The eggs hatch in the spring and the "mobile" crawler stage moves to feeding sites on the needles. Crawlers do not have a waxy covering and are the stage most susceptible to control measures. Once settled, the crawler remains in place and continues development to the adult stage.

Control

Insecticidal soap, diazinon, chlorpyrifos, malathion or acephate may be used to control the scales. Control efforts need to be targeted toward the crawler stage. Thorough spray coverage is needed for control. A dormant oil spray in early spring before new growth develops can also be an effective control measure. Oil-sensitive plants listed under the Precautions section of the label should NOT be treated.

Pine adelgid

Identification and Lifecycle

Pine adelgids are small, dark, aphid like insects that are covered with a cottony wax secretion. *Pineus* sp. feed on the needles, twigs and bark of many western pine species. The white, waxy secretions are conspicuous on young ponderosa and lodgepole pines. The biology and life history of the conifer adelgids is complex and not well known.

Control

Control by spraying is best accomplished when directed against the immature stages, particularly in the spring.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at 530-252-6667.

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cc: Mr. Phil Parry